

Application Serial No. 10/090,665

Docket No. 39861.0200

Response/Amendment dated September 27, 2004

Reply to Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment mailed on September 23, 2004

Reply to Office Action mailed on June 30, 2004

In the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-7 (canceled)

8. (previously presented) A method for facilitating the fabrication of a hard cover for at least a portion of an article, the method comprising:

positioning shrinkable material over at least a portion of the article;

shrinking said shrinkable material to form a fitted cover for said at least a portion of the article;

applying a layer of molding material overlying said fitted cover to form a hard cover for said at least a portion of the article; and

applying a protective layer comprising polyvinyl alcohol—overlying a surface of said fitted cover before said applying said layer of molding material.

9. (previously presented) A method for facilitating the fabrication of a hard cover for at least a portion of an article, the method comprising:

positioning shrinkable material over at least a portion of the article;

shrinking said shrinkable material to form a fitted cover for said at least a portion of the article;

applying a layer of molding material overlying said fitted cover to form a hard cover for said at least a portion of the article;

applying a layer of surface coating overlying said fitted cover before said applying said layer of molding material; and

applying a protective layer overlying a surface of said fitted cover before said applying said layer of surface coating.

Claims 10-17 (canceled)

18. (previously presented) A method for facilitating fabrication of a first article from a second article, the method comprising:

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positioning shrinkable material over at least a portion of the second article;
shrinking said shrinkable material to form a fitted cover for said at least a portion of said second article;

applying a first layer of molding material overlying said fitted cover to form a mold, said mold having a surface which is a negative impression of at least a portion of said fitted cover;
removing said mold from said fitted cover;

applying a second layer of molding material overlying said surface of said mold to form the first article;

applying a protective layer comprising polyvinyl alcohol--Overlying a surface of said fitted cover before said applying said first layer of molding material.

19. (previously presented) A method for facilitating fabrication of a first article from a second article, the method comprising:

positioning shrinkable material over at least a portion of the second article;

shrinking said shrinkable material to form a fitted cover for said at least a portion of said second article;

applying a first layer of molding material overlying said fitted cover to form a mold, said mold having a surface which is a negative impression of at least a portion of said fitted cover;

removing said mold from said fitted cover;

applying a second layer of molding material overlying said surface of said mold to form the first article;

applying a layer of surface coating overlying said fitted cover before said applying said first layer of molding material; and

applying a protective layer overlying a surface of said fitted cover before said applying said layer of surface coating.

Claims 20-24 (canceled)

25. (previously presented) A method for facilitating fabrication of a first article from a second article, the method comprising:

positioning shrinkable material over at least a portion of the second article;

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shrinking said shrinkable material to form a fitted cover for said at least a portion of said second article;

applying a first layer of molding material overlying said fitted cover to form a mold, said mold having a surface which is a negative impression of at least a portion of said fitted cover;

removing said mold from said fitted cover;

applying a second layer of molding material overlying said surface of said mold to form the first article; and

applying protective layer comprising polyvinyl alcohol—overlying said surface of said mold before said applying said second layer of molding material.

26. (previously presented) A method for facilitating fabrication of a first article from a second article, the method comprising:

positioning shrinkable material over at least a portion of the second article;

shrinking said shrinkable material to form a fitted cover for said at least a portion of said second article;

applying a first layer of molding material overlying said fitted cover to form a mold, said mold having a surface which is a negative impression of at least a portion of said fitted cover;

removing said mold from said fitted cover;

applying a second layer of molding material overlying said surface of said mold to form the first article;

applying a layer of surface coating overlying said surface of said mold before said

applying said second layer of molding material; and

applying a protective layer overlying a surface of said fitted cover before said applying said layer of surface coating.

Claims 26-29 (canceled)

30. (Original) A method for facilitating fabrication of a first article from a second article, the method comprising:

forming over at least a portion of the second article a cover comprising a heat shrinkable material;

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heating said cover to shrink said heat shrinkable material to form a fitted cover for said at least a portion of said second article;

applying a first wax layer overlying a surface of said fitted cover;

applying a first protective layer overlying said first wax layer;

applying a first layer of surface coating overlying said first protective layer;

applying a first layer of molding material overlying said first layer of surface coating to form a mold, said mold having a surface which is a negative impression of at least a portion of said fitted cover;

removing said mold from said fitted cover;

applying a second wax layer overlying said surface of said mold;

applying a second protective layer overlying said second wax layer;

applying a second layer of surface coating overlying said second protective layer;

applying a second layer of molding material overlying said second layer of surface coating to form a first article; and

removing said first article from said mold.

31. (Original) The method of claim 30, said first article comprising a hard cover for said second article.

Claims 32-33 (canceled).